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## **Importing Live Mice – Information for Researchers**

Importing live mice to ABR follows a procedure that is managed by our Import/Export Coordinator and Quarantine Coordinator. Milestones for the import processes are updated in StuartWeb to the point where animals are either sent to our breeding holdings, sent to the researcher's facility for breeding, or enter the Rederivation process. The following information outlines the import process for live mice.

### **StuartWeb Service Requests**

All import requests need to be lodged in StuartWeb - Services. There is a quick guide for how to do this at <https://abr.org.au/documents/ImportingLiveMiceUsingStuartWeb.pdf> or in the StuartWeb Help section.

Once a request has been placed the Line Information needs to be completed by the ABR Quality Manager. This ensures that all instructions are in place for how to manage the colony on your behalf including genotyping services.

ABR's Import/Export Coordinator will contact the supplier facility to request health screens. These are then sent to the ABR Facility Veterinarian to determine where the animals will be housed within our quarantine facility. This may be either the Dirty Quarantine room or Clean Quarantine room. Once the health screens have been assessed the ABR Import/Export Coordinator will contact the supplier facility and courier companies to organise shipment. Once the shipment date is confirmed the milestone in the StuartWeb request will be updated with the planned date of shipment.

### **Post-Arrival Procedures**

When the animals arrive at ABR the Import service request will be updated with the milestone "*Mice arrived at ABR*". If it is an international import then the milestone "*Mice released from Australian Quarantine*" will be used to indicate that the animals are now able to proceed into the health screening process.

Breeding pairs will be set up approximately 2 weeks post arrival to avoid having to collect blood samples from heavily pregnant females. This will ensure the security of the line whilst undergoing the health screening. Please note that any offspring will be required to undergo health screening. Space is limited in the Quarantine rooms so any plans for cross lines may need to wait until the imported line reaches the breeding holdings. The ability to set up cross lines will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Tissue will be collected from all imported animals and sent for genotyping as indicated in the Line Instructions. This is to confirm that we have the correct genotypes for each animal. Genotypes of imported animals are not automatically uploaded to Stuart so please contact ABR when you receive the results.

Health screening is undertaken at several stages whilst the animals are in the quarantine area. The last screens are taken 4 weeks post-arrival. Results are usually available within two weeks of these screens. The average time that animals are held in quarantine is around 6 weeks. The Quarantine Coordinator will adjust the milestone in StuartWeb to “*Mice screened clean – move to breeding*” if the animals are remaining at ABR or “*Mice screened clean – book courier/send to institute*” for lines being bred elsewhere. Once the animals have been moved the service request milestone will be updated to “*Completed*”.

If the line is being rederived the milestone in the Import request will be updated to “*Rederive and breed at ABR – New service ID*” or “*Rederive and send to institute – New service ID*” with the appropriate service ID in the comments and then “*Completed*”. Future milestones will then fall under the Rederivation service request.

The need to rederive the line will depend on your desired ABR Barrier Level and the outcome of the ABR health screens. Please note that some ABR partner institutes have specific requirements about the health status of mice entering their facilities (eg. presence of *P. pneumotropica*). It is important to check the requirements of the destination experimental facility before making a decision on the desired ABR barrier for breeding. Please refer to the Barrier Level information and decision tree below for more information.

When a line screens positive for an excluded pathogen the researcher will be contacted and advised of the need to rederive the line. A rederivation service request will then need to be placed in StuartWeb.

Rederivation can be performed by using either IVF techniques or standard rederivation practices. Please refer to <https://abr.org.au/documents/rederivation-requirements-for-researchers.pdf> for further information about Rederivation.

## **ABR Barriers**

***Maximum Barrier*** – All mice to be housed in the Maximum Barrier must be rederived on arrival, irrespective of the health screen status. All immunodeficient lines will require rederivation and it is recommended that they are housed in the Maximum Barrier. Compulsory rederivation ensures mice will be free of all pathogens on the ABR exclusions list. Mice recovered from frozen material or generated in the MEGA service are also allowed in the Maximum Barrier.

***Standard Barrier Level 1*** – Imported mice can enter this barrier without rederivation as long as the health screen demonstrates they are not carrying pathogens on the ABR exclusion list. This is limited to animals imported from the Maximum Barrier at the Jackson Laboratory and the production area at ARC only.

***Standard Barrier Level 2*** – Imported mice can enter this barrier without rederivation as long as the health screen demonstrates they are negative for all pathogens on the ABR exclusion list except for *P. pneumotropica* and *K. oxytoca*. These pathogens are accepted in this barrier.

Any imported mice that do not meet the health screen requirements for Standard Barrier Levels 1 and 2 must be rederived.

## Rederivation Decision Tree

Use the following decision tree to determine if a line requires Rederivation before entering the ABR breeding area or issue to a facility.

